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1. At present Shanghai Soviet leaders are confused by the increase in the number of persons who refuse to follow the Soviet Consulate's orders regarding repatriation. Following the departure of the first group of repatriates, the Consulate suddenly found that organizing the succeeding groups was a difficult task. Although the Consulate had prepared the roster for the second group entirely from documents signed by persons voluntarily requesting repatriation [redacted] the number of individuals among this group who failed to appear at the Consulate to pick up their visas rose to 20 per cent of the list. The Consulate then ordered those citizens who were included in the third group to be prepared to join the second group. But even this measure was met with refusals. Some Soviet officials feared that the second group would be short 200 persons. Formation of the following groups will be more difficult. [redacted] Note: Over 46 Soviet citizens, former Russian emigrants, have publicly renounced their USSR citizenship in the 1 August to 21 September 1947 issues of Kitaiska-Ruskaya /The Sino-Russian Newspaper/, anti-Soviet Russian language daily in Shanghai.)
2. With this gradual but steady increase in opposition within the Soviet community to repatriation to the USSR, rumors have begun to circulate that Moscow will soon plan compulsory repatriation of all Soviet citizens (? former emigrants) and that after the arrival of Ambassador Petrov the Soviet Embassy will start negotiations with the Chinese authorities on this subject [redacted]
3. It is possible that such rumors have emanated from the local Consulate as a form of indirect pressure on those subjects who have refused to fulfill the terms of their voluntary requests for repatriation. Another explanation of such rumors may be connected with the new policy of the local Soviet Consulate vis-a-vis the Soviet population in Shanghai, i.e., /to spread/ rumors of an imminent war between the USSR and the United States in which China will be involved.

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5.

rumors about possible compulsory repatriation and rumors about a possible third war have been constantly circulating in official Soviet circles.

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It would be ridiculous to accept the opinion that local Soviet officials intentionally spread such rumors for the purpose of pressing numbers of undecided Soviet citizens to proceed to the USSR. The Soviet Consulate has another remedy for such indecisions: direct threat to the individual to deprive him of his Soviet passport, with all the consequences that follow. Under present conditions new Soviet citizens fear such a possible threat as the worst that can happen. Therefore, the rumors about another war are not intended to show the local Soviet population the ways and means of achieving Soviet action. These rumors undoubtedly represent the state of mind of local Soviet leaders. These rumors first appeared many months ago and are now only being intensified. Rumors are not spread intentionally by local Soviet leaders--these rumors leaked out from the "intimate circle."

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6.

The slogan "War is imminent" appeared a long time ago in Shanghai, but now to this slogan is definitely added "in 1948". Usually Soviet leaders in a given city accurately reflect the feelings of Moscow. All actions of local Soviet leaders are undoubtedly governed by the idea that "War is imminent". Therefore, even this small question of repatriation represents one of the series of measures dictated by the "expected war". The fact that there has been a decline in the number of volunteers for repatriation must not worry local Soviet officials too much; a decline of 1000, more or less, is not too important. But in any consideration of the factors involved in preparing for favorable conditions in the event of another war, the fact that among the new Soviet citizens Soviet officials have found many who are already disloyal is important and requires "proper consideration". At the same time such difficulties or failures affect the positions of those leaders who are engaged in the fulfillment of repatriation; and as usual, in Soviet ranks, any failure is credited to the person who is in charge.

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